



# CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



Volume III Issue 6

February 12, 2016

## **BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR – CLEAR SNOW & ICE FROM SIDEWALKS**



The City of Woodstock encourages all residents to remove snow & ice from sidewalks along the frontage of their homes and private property. The clearing of snow provides a path for school children and other pedestrians to safely maneuver throughout the City. This time of year snow and ice thaws during the day, flows across the sidewalk, and freezes again at night. For the safety of others, spread some ice melt in those areas where 're-freeze' occurs to aide in the prevention of slips and falls.

By not clearing the snow from your public sidewalk, school children and pedestrians may be forced to walk along the edge of streets, which can be dangerous for both pedestrians and motorists.

Please be a good neighbor and remove the snow and ice from your sidewalks as soon after a winter storm event as possible to help to keep the City of Woodstock a safe place for pedestrians to travel during the winter months.

## **TWEEN NIGHT AT THE RECREATION CENTER IS A SMASH**

The **Recreation Center** was filled with over 70 tweens last Saturday night for the monthly *Tween Night at the Rec* event. Tweens, in grades 5<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup>, are invited on the first Saturday of the month for open gym, walleyball, swimming and other activities from 6:30-8:30PM for a \$4 drop-in fee. The event was organized by **Program Coordinator Becky Vidales**.

Future Tween Nights are March 5, April 2 and May 7.



## **MIPAY ONLINE**

If you are experiencing any difficulties in creating your username and password, please contact the **Human Resources Department** during the hours of Monday – Friday, 8:30AM to 5:00PM at 815-338-1172 or via email at [dschober@woodstockil.gov](mailto:dschober@woodstockil.gov) or [jmay@woodstockil.gov](mailto:jmay@woodstockil.gov) and we would be happy to assist you.

- 2 Woodstock Water**
- 3 Hr News**
- 4 Health News**
- 5 Health News Con't**
- 6 Next Weeks' Meetings**

## ***WOODSTOCK WATER, A SOURCE OF PRIDE FOR ALL***

Recent news reports have raised awareness over concerns involving the quality of drinking water in Flint, Michigan. While the circumstances that led to their current situation are still under review, it is important to note the differences between Flint's source water and the source water and treatment efforts in Woodstock. Early indications suggest authorities in Flint changed from their previous water source to one that is more corrosive. Corrosive water pulls contaminating elements out of the conveyance pipes, often leading to undesirable consequences such as elevated levels of copper, lead, or iron. While some level of corrosiveness is present in most water, it is possible to treat the condition and limit its effect on the water system.

Woodstock treats corrosive conditions by adding sodium polyphosphate during the treatment process. This compound forms a protective coating along the walls of distribution pipes, minimizing the ability of those elements from entering the water system. In addition, users may occasionally notice their water looks brown or rust colored. This is due to the disturbance of sediment in the system, a condition Woodstock addresses by flushing the distribution pipes twice a year. Discolored water frequently occurs for a short time while crews are flushing hydrants or when a break in a water main forces crews to reroute the delivery system.

The source of water introduced into the treatment system is also an important indicator of the conditions that require treatment. In the United States, water enters the treatment process from one of two sources or a combination of both. Rivers and lakes are defined as surface water sources and enter the treatment system through intakes. Groundwater is defined as a source below the ground and accessed through a well and submerged pump. Groundwater by rule is generally less susceptible to contaminants because of natural filtration and typically has a more consistent quality than surface water. To keep drinking water safe, treatment operators test for a variety of conditions and treat them accordingly.

To ensure Woodstock is producing the safest water possible, its treatment operators perform numerous tests each day. They also perform 30 field tests for iron each month. The water we access from our faucets is in significant compliance with the action levels set by the EPA and a result of the hard work performed by everyone involved in its collection, treatment, and distribution.



## **HR NEWS**

### **DON'T FORGET TO FAST FOR YOUR HEALTHPOINT CHECK-UP!**

If you registered for the HealthPoint Check-Up, either on February 18<sup>th</sup> or February 24<sup>th</sup>, please remember **not to eat for 8 to 12 hours before your appointment and to drink two glasses of water the morning of your appointment.**



### **HAWA PERKS**

If you are participating in the HealthPoint Check-Up, **March 15<sup>th</sup>** is the deadline by which 100 points must be earned to receive a full calendar years' worth of applicable premium reductions (if 100 points are earned after this date, the premium reductions will be prorated by the number of full calendar months remaining in 2016).

**Questions?** Contact the **HR Department: Deb Schober** at ext. 11203 or **Jill May** at in 11206.

## **RECRUITMENT**

**Part-Time Library Desk Assistant – Woodstock Public Library:** Interviews for chosen qualified applicants for the Part-Time Limited Desk Assistant were held on Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. Information on the position will be released shortly.

**Chief of Police – Woodstock Police Department:** The City of Woodstock is accepting electronic submissions for the position of **Chief of Police**. The Chief of Police plans, directs, coordinates, and controls all aspects of the Woodstock Police Department including the enforcement of laws and ordinances, crime prevention, and law enforcement assistance for protection of life and property. The work is performed under the direction of the City Manager. This is an exempt position. Salary Range: \$87,690 – 136,117 DOQ with excellent benefit package.

**Application Deadline: Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 5:00pm.**

**Summer Seasonal Positions:** The City of Woodstock is accepting applications for Summer Seasonal Positions with the Woodstock Recreation Department and Public Works Department as outlined below:

- **American Red Cross Certified Lifeguards, WSI Instructors, Swim Aides:** These positions provide safety and instruction to swimmers at Woodstock Water Works. Work shifts will include days, evenings and weekends, dependent on pool attendance and weather. Lifeguards ensure the safety and health of all pool patrons, while WSI Instructors and Aides provide proper instruction/teaching for all City of Woodstock Recreation Department swimming lessons. Minimum age is 16. **Candidates must attach copies of certification to application, or must show proof of certification by program orientation date in late spring.** Pay rate to be determined but will be at least: \$8.46/hour (Certified Lifeguards); \$8.67/hour (Certified Instructors); \$8.25/hour (Aides)
- **Playground Program Counselors:** Counselors interact with and supervise a group of 8-12 children, ages 4-12 years, in a recreational setting. This position requires planning, implementing, and evaluating daily activities, and communication with participants' parents on a regular basis. Counselors ensure safety of campers at all times. Minimum age is 16. Experience working with elementary school aged children is preferred. **This position requires attendance at the training session the first week of June and the ability to work during the entire 7-week session that runs**

**thereafter. Tentative Dates: May 31<sup>st</sup> – June 3<sup>rd</sup> (Training Week) and June 6<sup>th</sup> – July 22<sup>nd</sup> (Program).** Pay rate to be determined but will be at least: \$8.25/hour.

- **Public Works Seasonal Maintenance Workers:** These temporary positions perform various manual unskilled and semi-skilled tasks in the maintenance of City streets, parks and sewer/water utilities. Positions work under the direction of Superintendents and/or Foremen for the respective divisions of the Public Works Department. These positions work 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Monday - Friday during the specified time period. Parks positions generally begin in late April/early May and run through August, while other divisions generally begin in June. **Must be age 18 or over with a valid IL driver's license and good driving record.** Previous construction, landscaping or maintenance experience is preferred. Pay rate to be determined but will be at least: \$8.46/hour.

**Application Deadline for Summer Seasonal Positions: Friday, March 4, 2016 at 5:00pm.**

**Please refer to the City's website at [www.woodstockil.gov](http://www.woodstockil.gov) and click on the Jobs section for further details and the application process on the above opportunities. *The City of Woodstock is an Equal Opportunity Employer.***

## ***THE GERMIEST PLACES IN YOUR HOME***

Your home may be host to all sorts of unwelcome guests—namely germs. While you can't avoid all microbes, since young children, the elderly, and people with compromised immune systems are especially susceptible to viral and bacterial infections (like the easily transferrable staphylococcus aureus, or staph) that may not affect otherwise healthy adults, it's a good idea to try to keep your home clean, and limit your (and your loved ones') exposure to germs.



### ***All Around the Home***

Germs commonly lurk in and around garbage cans and pet habitats. Faucets also rank high on bacteria count, as do light switches, remote controls, phones, computer keyboards and any other household items your hands (and the hands of others) routinely touch. Routine cleaning will generally keep germs at bay, though you should disinfect surfaces when someone in the household is sick.

As you've probably guessed, the bathroom is also prime breeding ground for bacteria. "Even your toothbrush can easily become contaminated," says Catherine Passaretti, MD, infectious disease specialist at Carolina's HealthCare System in Charlotte, NC, "Especially if it is kept in close proximity to the toilet." Keep your toothbrush in a closed cabinet, and close the toilet lid before flushing to help prevent microscopic germs from toilet water vapors rising up and contaminating toothbrushes.

### ***Food Safety and Clean Kitchens***

Some common bacteria, such as salmonella, E. coli and staph, which lives in the intestinal tract and on the skin (even in healthy humans), can be contracted from raw and undercooked foods. Although undercooked meat and other animal foods are most often associated with bacteria and foodborne illnesses, any type of food can harbor germs. So be sure to wash all fresh fruits and vegetables under running water, including those with skin or rind that will be discarded.

To kill kitchen bacteria on household surfaces, and prevent cross-contamination from food to appliance, appliance to food, or from one food to another, routinely clean your sink, dishcloths and sponges, cutting boards, countertops and refrigerator shelves, where germs that cause foodborne illness are easily spread. Here's how to keep your kitchen surfaces and tools clean:

### ***Cutting Boards***

- Never place cooked food on an unwashed cutting board or plate that held raw animal products such as meat, poultry, seafood, or eggs.
- Clean sponges in the dishwasher; change them every two weeks.
- Wash and replace dish cloths at least every other day (or immediately if used to clean up after handling raw meat). You can throw dishcloths in the washing machine or microwave wet or damp dishcloths for three minutes (and damp sponges for one minute) to kill bacteria. Do not microwave dry towels or sponges as they may catch on fire.
- You can also soak dishcloths and sponges in the same diluted bleach solution you use to sanitize surfaces and cutting boards.

### ***Food Safety***

- Store animal products separately from other foods in the refrigerator and immediately clean up any package leaks or drips from these foods.

Other than keeping household items and surfaces as clean as possible, the single best way to prevent the spread of germs at home is to routinely wash your hands and make sure children and other family members do the same. Germs from unwashed hands easily spread to foods, drinks, toys, household appliances, and work surfaces.

The best tools for killing bacteria and preventing infection are plain soap and water, and rubbing your lathered hands together for at least 20 seconds while washing (or, for children, the amount of time it takes to sing "Happy Birthday" twice). "It doesn't matter how warm the water is," Passaretti advises. "What is important is the friction caused by rubbing." In most cases, you don't need antibacterial soap to do the job, but you can use an alcohol-based hand cleaner containing at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available. "But sanitizer residue can build up on hands," Passaretti adds. "So if used repeatedly, it is important to wash your hands with soap and water after every four or five uses."

It is especially important to wash your hands:

- Before and after handling food.
- After touching any type of garbage.
- After using the bathroom.

- After being in contact with someone who is sick.
- After touching doorknobs, handles, light switches, or anything else that is handled often by different people.

© 2016 Susan McQuillan, MS, RDN, CDN, Qualityhealth.com.

**Want to Start to Get Healthy with an  
Exercise Program?**

City of Woodstock employees receive an employee discount at the  
**Woodstock Recreation Center. The initiation fee is waived!**  
**Executive membership is \$35 per month. Full membership is \$25  
per month.** Try a week for free! For more information, contact Mary  
Lynn Lisk or Renee Torrez at 815-338-4363 or visit  
[www.woodstockrecreationdepartment.com](http://www.woodstockrecreationdepartment.com)  
for more information.

## **MEETINGS**

Monday, February 15-Old Courthouse and Sheriff's  
House Advisory Commission, 7PM, Council  
Chambers

Tuesday, February 16 – Opera House Advisory  
Commission, 4:30PM, Opera House

Tuesday, February 16 – City Council, 7PM, Council  
Chambers

Wednesday, February 17 – Transportation  
Commission, 7PM, Council Chambers

## **Quotation**

I don't feel old. I don't feel anything till  
noon. That's when it's time for my nap.

[Bob Hope](#)